

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

AUTHORIZING SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO FURNISH SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINES

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5671) to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish seasonal influenza vaccines to certain individuals, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5671

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO FURNISH SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINES TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS NOT ENROLLED IN PATIENT ENROLLMENT SYSTEM OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

Section 2 of the SAVE LIVES Act (Public Law 117-4; 38 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended—

(1) by striking “a vaccine for COVID-19” each place it appears and inserting “a vaccine for COVID-19, a seasonal influenza vaccine, or both”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “and seasonal influenza vaccines” after “vaccines for COVID-19”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “, seasonal influenza vaccines, or both” after “vaccines for COVID-19”;

(3) in subsection (d), by striking “VACCINE ALLOCATION” in the heading and inserting “COVID-19 VACCINE ALLOCATION”;

(4) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f);

(5) by inserting after subsection (d) the following new subsection (e):

“(e) **LIMITATION ON FURNISHING SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINE.**—A seasonal influenza vaccine may not be furnished under this section after April 29, 2022.”;

(6) in subsection (f), as so redesignated—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (7); and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following new paragraph:

“(6) **SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINE.**—The term ‘seasonal influenza vaccine’ means any product that is—

“(A) approved by the Food and Drug Administration;

“(B) commercially available; and

“(C) recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the prevention of influenza in a particular season.”; and

(7) in the section heading by striking “VACCINE” and inserting “AND INFLUENZA VACCINES”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 5671, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5671, as amended. Earlier this year, the SAVE LIVES Act was passed unanimously by both Chambers and signed into law. It has allowed VA to provide COVID-19 vaccinations to veterans, their caregivers, and spouses.

With flu season in full swing and COVID-19 continuing to burden our health systems, the urgency to provide both flu and COVID vaccines has never been greater. Public health officials are clear. It is completely safe to receive both inoculations, even at the same time.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I introduced this legislation to build on the lifesaving work of the SAVE LIVES Act and allow VA to administer flu vaccines in addition to COVID-19 vaccines to the same population. By providing easy access to both vaccines at the same time, I hope we can begin to reduce the burden on the broader healthcare system this winter.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST), the ranking member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for working with me on this legislation in committee.

I ask all my colleagues here today to join this bipartisan effort and support this important legislation to increase access to both vaccines.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5671, as amended. This bill will authorize VA to give flu shots to certain nonveterans this flu season. Earlier this year, the chairman and I worked with the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs' colleagues to allow VA to vaccinate all veterans, as well as their spouses and certain caregivers against COVID-19.

The bill we are considering today would allow VA to provide flu vaccines to those individuals as well this flu season. Preventing a bad flu season this year is important for many reasons. It could help save lives, most importantly. It could help avoid adding further burden to the shoulders of the doctors and the nurses who have already sacrificed so much throughout this pandemic. It could also help ensure that COVID-19 recovery efforts stay on track as we continue to try to get back to life as we knew it before March 2020.

This is an important public health initiative and I am glad to support it today. I hope this bill will have the support of all of my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, and before asking all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 5671, I truly believe that passing the SAVE LIVES Act and passing this legislation today, H.R. 5671 constitutes one of the best moments that I have had as chairman where all four corners of the Congress came together.

Ranking Member BOST, I know walked a very delicate balance to bring his Members together, but I appreciate his persuasive abilities with his side of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, I want to encourage that we do this more, and I have no doubt that we really did save lives. And I have no doubt today that we are going to save lives because of this effort before us.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5671, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 41 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1831

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. KELLY of Illinois) at 6 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.

COLONEL JOHN M. McHUGH TUTION FAIRNESS FOR SURVIVORS ACT OF 2021

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1095) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the disapproval by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of courses of education offered by public institutions of higher learning that do not charge veterans the in-